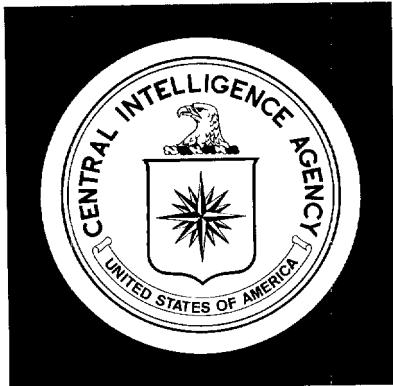


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24 August 1972

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CAMBODIA: The government apparently intends to go forward with legislative elections, despite some efforts by the opposition to postpone them.

President Lon Nol indicated early this month that he might delay plans to hold elections for a new National Assembly on 3 September and a Senate on 17 September. He has since shown no discernible interest in taking such a step, however, even though the withdrawal of the leading opposition parties--Sirik Matak's Republicans and In Tam's Democrats--has reduced the election to a sham contest that will be won by the government's virtually unopposed candidates. By holding the elections Lon Nol would be able to complete his process of returning to ostensible constitutional rule--which began with the adoption of a new constitution in April and his own election as President in June.

Sirik Matak and In Tam, meanwhile, reportedly are each trying to find ways to use their limited political leverage to influence Lon Nol to put off the voting.

the only solution to the country's problems is the formation of a coalition government and postponement of the elections.

At the moment, however, the political prospects for the Republicans--and for the Democrats--seem bleak. Matak's personal prospects look a bit brighter because he apparently still has the inside track on the vice-presidency. Lon Nol has repeatedly asked him to accept that post, but Matak has thus far refused to give him an unequivocal response. His time for further stalling is running out, since a vice-president is supposed to be designated shortly after the legislative elections.

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HAITI: The Jean Claude Duvalier government has just conducted its first extensive roundup of its critics.

The detention was apparently inspired by the discovery of a rifle equipped with a telescopic sight in a room overlooking the presidential palace. No evidence of a plot against the government has come to light, and so far the only known tie among the 15 or 20 persons reportedly detained is a distaste for the Duvalier administration. The President left as scheduled for a five-day ceremonial visit to Cap Haitien on 22 August, but Minister of Interior and Defense Luckner Cambronne decided to remain in Port-au-Prince rather than accompany the President as planned.

Present evidence suggests that the detentions are more a security precaution connected with the President's trip than a response to a threat to the government.

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